

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The applicant has reviewed the Examiner's comments and the cited references and responsive thereto the applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 and 19, and has canceled claims 11-13.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said first trailer portion" in line 2 of claim 6. Responsive thereto, the applicant has amended claim 6 (with claim 7 dependent thereon) accordingly and applicant respectfully submits that these claims now point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention and that this rejection now be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skotnikov et al. (US 6,311,795). Responsive thereto, applicant has amended claim 1 to more fully differentiate applicant's claimed invention from the teachings of Skotnikov. Specifically, applicant has amended independent claim 1 by including the limitation that the controller calculates "an average slope value and adjusts the chassis to a desired orientation in response thereto", which is neither taught nor suggested by Skotnikov. In addition, the applicant has amended independent claim 14 to include the step of "calculating an average slope value based on at least one of said position signal or orientation signal", which is also neither taught nor suggested by Skotnikov. For at least the reasons presented above, applicant respectfully submits that Skotnikov does not and cannot teach the applicant's invention as now claimed and that the rejection of claim 1 (with existing claims 4 and 5 dependent thereon) and claim 14 be withdrawn.

The Examiner has made the following rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

- 1) Claims 2 and 19 as being unpatentable over Skotnikov as applied to claims 1 and 14, and further in view of Pischke (U.S. 5,142,897).
- 2) Claims 3 and 17 as being unpatentable over Skotnikov as applied to claims 1 and 14, and further in view of Ahonen (U.S. 4,099,733).

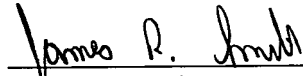
- 3) Claims 6, 7 and 18 as being unpatentable over Skotnikov and further in view of Rumminger (U.S. 4,557,497).
- 4) Claims 8-13, 15 and 16 as being unpatentable over Skotnikov and further in view of Martin et al. (U.S. 5,709,394).

As noted previously, applicant has canceled claims 11-13. Regarding the remaining claims 2, 3 and 6-10, because these claims depend on applicant's claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that applicant's comments above concerning the application of Skotnikov to applicant's claim 1 are directly applicable here, and applicant respectfully submits that Skotnikov in combination with either Pischke, Ahonen, Rumminger, or Martin fails to teach or suggest an arrangement in which the controller calculates "an average slope value and adjusts the chassis to a desired orientation in response thereto", as now claimed by the applicant. For at least the reasons presented above, applicant respectfully submits that none of the above-identified combinations teach applicant's invention as now claimed and that the rejection of claims 2, 3 and 6-10 be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 15-19, because these claims depend on applicant's claim 14, applicant respectfully submits that applicant's comments above concerning the application of Skotnikov to applicant's claim 14 are directly applicable here, and applicant respectfully submits that Skotnikov in combination with either Pischke, Ahonen, Rumminger or Martin fails to teach or suggest an arrangement which includes the step of "calculating an average slope value based on at least one of said position signal or orientation signal", as now claimed by the applicant. For at least the reasons presented above, applicant respectfully submits that none of the above-identified combinations teach applicant's invention as now claimed and that the rejection of claims 15-19 be withdrawn.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the application at issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James R. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

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